[ABSTRACT

An optical disc apparatus for recording, reproducing or erasing an information signal by converging a light flux onto a recording layer through a transparent substrate. The apparatus includes one or a plurality of optical heads having a plurality of objective lenses whose aberrations have respectively been corrected for a plurality of disc substrates of different thicknesses, a cartridge for enclosing the optical disc, a discrimination hole which is formed on the cartridge, and a sensor for detecting the opening/closing state of the discrimination hole and for generating a discrimination signal. In accordance with the result of the discrimination as to the thickness of the loaded optical disc, the objective lens, in which the occurrence of the aberration is smallest, is used, so that the information signal can preferably be recorded, reproduced or erased onto/from the optical discs having different substrate thicknesses. Instead of an optical head having objective lenses, an optical head having a waveguide and a plurality of converging grating couplers whose aberrations have respectively been corrected for a plurality of disc substrates of different thicknesses is provided to achieve the same object. ]

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An optical recording/reproducing apparatus for recording, reproducing or erasing an information signal onto/from an optical disc having at least a transparent substrate and an information layer by converging a light flux on the information layer through the transparent substrate. The apparatus includes optical converging devices, with different numerical apertures, focal distances or working distances, such as objective lenses or grating lenses, for performing aberration correction over a plurality of transparent substrates of different thicknesses of optical discs and a device for discriminating the type of optical disc based on the thicknesses of the transparent substrates. One of the optical converging devices that generates the least aberration is used according to a result of the discrimination of the thickness of the optical disc loaded in the apparatus to cause the information signal to be suitably recorded, reproduced or erased onto/from the optical discs having the different substrate thicknesses.